



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs  
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## **USDA to Hold Webinar on Raising Healthy Backyard Poultry**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28, 2010 – As part of Biosecurity for Birds' Bird Health Awareness Week, November 1 through November 7, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is sponsoring a free webinar called, "The Word on Healthy Birds." The webinar will take place on November 5 and be hosted by USDA's poultry veterinarian, Martin Smeltzer and Andy Schneider, an Atlanta radio personality known as the "Chicken Whisperer."

"The webinar will cover valuable information on raising healthy backyard poultry," said Smeltzer. "Topics will include how to keep your flock safe from predators and disease, the biggest threats to keeping your birds healthy and signs and symptoms of infectious diseases."

More than 200 people have already signed up to participate in "The Word on Healthy Birds" webinar. If you are interested in participating, please go to [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/birdbiosecurity/WordOnBirdsWebinar.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/birdbiosecurity/WordOnBirdsWebinar.pdf) for information on how to sign up. Space is limited.

Since 2004, APHIS has been conducting an extensive outreach and education program/campaign called "Biosecurity for Birds," which reaches out to backyard poultry and pet-bird owners to provide tips and advice on how to recognize signs of disease and to prevent diseases from reaching their birds. APHIS' efforts are in recognition of the importance of preventing infectious poultry diseases, such as high pathogenic avian influenza and exotic Newcastle disease, from being introduced into the country. To report a bird exhibiting disease-like symptoms, please call 866-536-7593. For more information on the Biosecurity for Birds campaign, please visit [www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/birdbiosecurity/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/birdbiosecurity/).

Beneficial to both experienced and new bird handlers, this webinar will equip you with the latest and greatest information on how to keep your birds healthy and keep infectious diseases from being introduced into the country.

Note to Reporters: USDA news releases, program announcements and media advisories are available on the Internet and through Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds. Go to the APHIS news release page at [www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom) and click on the RSS feed link.

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